(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not; the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Government is implementing a number of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the benefit of all categories of farmers in all states including in Adivasi Areas of Maharashtra. Some of the schemes particularly benefiting the Adivasi Areas in Maharashtra include:

(i) National Pulses Development Project,

(ii) Integrated Crop Development Programme—Coarse Cereals,

(iii) Bee Keeping, and

(iv) Assistance to Weaker Section Co-operatives.

In addition, the State Government is conducting training programmes on improved methods of cultivation of horticulture crops, plant protection measures, rearing of horticulture saplings and grafting techniques for various fruits crops in the various training centers established in tribal areas of the State.

Annual Production of fish in Maharashtra

4131. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of annual production of fish during last three years and the current year in Maharashtra;

(b) the steps being taken to increase the fish production in the State;

(c) whether the present fish capacity is sufficient in the State; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by Government to increase the fish storage capacity and marketing facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Details of annual production of fish during the year 1996-97 to 1998-1999 and upto December, 1999 in Mahrashtra are as follows:—

Annual Production of Fish	(In lakh Tonnes)
1996-97	5.90
1997-98	5.80
1998-99	5.20
1999-2000 (from April to Dec., 99)	3.81

(b) Government of Maharashtra has taken several steps to enhance inland fish production inlcuding stocking of fingerlings/fish seed as per optimum requirements in ponds/reservoirs. The breeding grounds in inland sector are also being protected. In marine sector, the Maharashtra State is implementing Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1981 to ban fishing by mechanised fishing crafts during the monsoon season to protect and conserve the marine fisheries.

(c) and (d) The present cold storage facility is not sufficient, and Government of Maharashtra has proposed construction of three cold storage and three ice Factories.

Rate of interest Charged by NCDC

4132. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that NCDC charges a very high rate of interest on its lendings to the States for development of Cooperatives;

(b) what is the present rate of interest charged by NCDC; and

(c) whether NCDC is considerig to reduced its present rate of interest to make Cooperatives viable and sustainable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir, Existing effective interest rates charged by NCDC are as follows:—

Sl. No.	Scheme	Rate of Interest
(i)	Under-developed States and Weaker Sections programmes	14.25%
(ii)	Working capital loan upto one year and assistance for computerisation	15.00%
(iii)	Other programmes/States	15.50%

(c) Does not arise.

Peculiar Growths in Brinjal Plant

†4133. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.